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MINUTES
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL - 14 PARK PLACE - 3rd Floor
VERNON, CONNECTICUT

October 20, 2009, 7:30 PM

Mayor Jason L. McCoy called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM

A) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:
Present: Council Members Daniel Anderson, Bill Campbell, Daniel Champagne, Brian R. Motola, Sean O'Shea, Pauline Schaefer, Harry D. Thomas, Michael A. Winkler
Absent: Council Members Mark Etre, Nancy E Herold, Marie Herbst
Entered During Meeting: Council Member Bill Fox (7:55 PM)
Also Present: Mayor Jason L. McCoy, Town Administrator John Ward, Recording Secretary Jill Kentfield

CITIZEN'S FORUM

Bill Firetto, 51 Phoenix Street, asked about the Public Works Director

Tom DiDio 112 Box Mountain Road, thanked Nancy Herold and Bill Fox for their years of service on the Town Council

Patricia Spooner, 87 Glenstone Dr., asked the Mayor to e-mail her an explanation about his comments regarding taxes in Vernon.

Citizen's forum closed at 7:37 PM

B.) **PUBLIC HEARING**
None

C.) **PRESENTATION**

1. A Certificate of Appreciation presented to Charles and Natalie Platt for their family's donation of property located on Lake Street to the Town of Vernon.

   Mr. and Mrs. Platt were not available to attend the meeting.

2. A presentation/demonstration of the software product from QSEND (This is a request from Council Member Daniel Anderson.)

   Keith LeBeau from QSEND provided a demonstration of the Town's new software product for responding to citizen complaints. Citizens can access forms via website or via phone call in which, an administrative employee can enter their information into the web-based system. Once entered, their complaint will be directly routed to the affected Department. Reports regarding the amount of calls/website requests, type of requests and other information can be generated from this system as necessary.

3. An update to be presented by Mayor Jason L. McCoy regarding various topics.

   Mayor McCoy thanked the Town Council members for allowing him to serve as their Mayor. He highlighted the accomplishments achieved during his tenure.

Mayor McCoy read a Mayoral proclamation for Council Member Fox to thank him for his 16 years of service as a Town Council Member and participation on sub-committees. He also thanked Nancy Herold for her service.

Dave Wheeler provide a demonstration of the new Declaration of Personal Property software for businesses that will allow them to access the forms on-line by logging into a secure password protected section of the Town website. Records will be maintained electronically and businesses providing the information will be able to access historical information regarding their past submissions.

D. **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Champagne made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Council Member Schaefer pulled consent agenda item # 2 for discussion. Motion carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda items 1 and 3 as presented.

Council Member Anderson requested to pull Informational items #2 and 4.
Council Member Champagne requested to pull informational item #5

C 1. **Request for Tax Refunds Prior Years and Current Year.**
(A copy of a memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue, to John D. Ward, Town Administrator dated October 13, 2009 is included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES TWO (2) TAX REFUNDS TOTALING $295.61 FOR PRIOR YEARS AND SEVENTEEN (17) TAX REFUNDS TOTALING $865.29 FOR THE CURRENT YEAR AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED OCTOBER 13, 2009.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Champagne made the above motion to approve the request for tax refunds prior years and current year. Motion carried unanimously.

C 2. **Request the Town Council authorize Mayor Jason L. McCoy to apply for the Connecticut State Department of Culture and Tourism Grant for the in the amount of $ 100,000.00.** (A copy of a memorandum from John D. Ward, Town Administrator to Mayor Jason L. McCoy and Town Council Members dated 10-15-2009 is included in the packet for your review.)

PROPOSED MOTION ONE:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY RESOLVES THAT MAYOR JASON L. MCCOY IS AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED TO FILE AN APPLICATION ON FORMS PRESCRIBED BY THE CONNECTICUT COMMISSION ON CULTURE AND TOURISM FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF C.G.S. SEC. 10-392 AND C.G.S. SEC 10-411 OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS ($100,000.00), AND UPON APPROVAL SAID REQUEST TO ENTER INTO AND EXECUTE A GRANT CONTRACT AND PRESERVATION RESTRICTION WITH THE STATE FOR SUCH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO VERNON FOR THE RESOTRATION OF THE SECOND FLOOR.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Thomas made the above motion to authorize Mayor Jason L. McCoy to apply for the Connecticut State Department of Culture and Tourism Grant in the amount of $100,000. Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Motola made a friendly amendment to change the amount requested to $90,000. Discussion took place. Motion as amended to $90,000 carried, Council Member Schaefer abstained.

PROPOSED MOTION TWO:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE RE-DESIGNATION OF AVAILABLE FUNDS IN THE RESERVE FOR CAPITAL AND NON-RECURRING EXPENDITURES ACCOUNT, TRANSFERRING ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS ($90,000.00) FROM THE CRRA SETTLEMENT PROCEEDS TO A DESIGNATION FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE SECOND FLOOR.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Champagne made the above motion to authorize the re-designation of available funds in the reserve for Capital and Non-Recurring expenditures account, transferring $90,000 from the CRRA Settlement Proceeds to a designation for the renovation of the second floor. Motion carried, Council Member Schaefer opposed.

C 3. **Request the Town Council approve the reappointment of Joseph Grabinski (R) 623 Dart Hill Rd., Vernon Connecticut as a regular member to the Board of Assessment Appeals, said term to begin October 21, 2009 and expire June 30, 2012.** (A copy of Mr. Grabinski's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

PURSUANT TO C.G.S. §7-105, AND CHARTER CHAPTER IX, SEC. 3, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE REAPPOINTMENT OF JOSEPH GRABINSKI, (R) 623 DART HILL RD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS, SAID TERM TO BEGIN OCTOBER 21, 2009 AND EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2012.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Champagne made the above motion to approve the reappointment of Joseph Grabinski as a regular member to the Board of Assessment Appeals for a term to begin October 21, 2009 through June 30, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

E.) **IDENTIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**
See information under Consent Agenda items.

F.) **PENDING BUSINESS**
None

G.) **NEW BUSINESS**
None

H.) **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**
None

I.) **ACTION ON ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED**
None

J.) **DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

Council Member Anderson requested to pull informational item #2 to thank the Planning and Zoning Commission for bringing this to the Town Council's attention and the Town Council for approving the initiative. Mayor McCoy spoke about the importance of residents participating in the survey.

Council Member Anderson requested to pull informational item #4 to thank the Administration and Mayor for submitting a successful application for $500,000 in grant funding for small cities to help Vernon continue the reconstruction of Prospect Street.

Council Member Champagne requested to pull informational item #5 to thank the fire department for their efforts to help the residents at Duncaster Lane.

Council Member Schaefer requested a point of personal privilege. She spoke about her freedom of information request, which she requested a copy of Mr. Tomko's letter of agreement. The letter she received had missing items. Mayor McCoy and Town Administrator Ward explained that certain information is excluded from Freedom of Information laws. To view the complete letter, a discussion would need to be held during executive session.

K.) **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2009 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED. (Memorandum dated October 9, 2009 from Bernice Dixon, Town Clerk to Mayor McCoy and Town Council members regarding the audio tape from the September 15, 2009 Town Council Meeting relative to Ordinance #242 Amendments.)

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Thomas made the above motion to approve the minutes of the regular Town Council Meeting of September 15, 2009. Discussion took place. Council Member Anderson requested a Democrat Council Member and a Republican Council Member review the tapes with the Town Clerks office to correct the minutes. Council Members Schaefer and Etre were chosen to complete this request. Town Council Members agreed with this request. No action was taken on the minutes.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 6, 2009 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Thomas made the above motion to approve the minutes of the regular Town Council Meeting of October 6, 2009. Discussion took place. Council Member Anderson requested a Democrat Council Member and a Republican Council Member review the tapes with the Town Clerks office to correct the minutes. Council Members Schaefer and Etre were chosen to complete this request. Council Member Winkler made a friendly motion to change the vote on Ordinance #242 on page 5 to include Champagne, Motola and Etre as opposed to the vote. The motion was not supported. Town Council Members decided to pursue the request to listen to the tapes and correct the minutes from the recording. No action was taken on the minutes.

L.) **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

M.) **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

1. Youth Services Bureau Monthly Report for September 2009 submitted by Alan Slobodien, Director of Youth Services.

2. Copy of letter dated October 5, 2009 from Lester Finkle, Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman, expressing appreciation to various Town Departments for their assistance in executing an agreement with Planimetrics, Inc. for the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD).

3. Building Department Monthly Report for September 2009, as submitted by B. Peter Hobbs, Building Official.

4. News Release from Governor M. Jodi Rell regarding Grant Awards to 29 Towns for Small Cities Funding. Vernon will receive $500,000.00 for the Reconstruction of Prospect Street.

5. Letter from Jim and Cathy Peterson, 20 Duncaster Lane, thanking the Fire Department for their exceptional service.

Adjourn (9:05 PM)

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Thomas made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Kentfield
Recording Secretary